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Raising the status of the Victoria College, Palghat.

370 *Q.*—Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any idea of raising forthwith the Victoria College at Palghat to the first grade or of locating a first-grade college in any other place in Malabar; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to appoint a committee to advise them as to the best place in the district for a first-grade college; if so, when the committee will be appointed?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 70.

(*b*) The Government have at present no idea of appointing a committee.

The Brennen College, Tellicherry.

371 *Q.*—Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have sanctioned a new block of buildings for the Brennen College at Tellicherry; if so, when the scheme was sanctioned;

(*b*) whether the site for the new buildings has already been acquired, if so, at what cost;

(*c*) what the estimated cost of the scheme is, and how much has already been spent; and

(*d*) when he expects the new buildings to be ready for occupation?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No. The matter has been deferred for the present.

(*c*) & (*d*) The question does not arise.

Provident Scheme for teachers in non-pensionable service.

372 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the general opinion of the teachers in non-pensionable service in aided schools throughout the Presidency has been elicited before formulating the Provident Scheme embodied in G.O. No. 140, dated the 22nd January 1923?

A.—Yes, the opinions of representative bodies and associations of teachers in the Presidency were taken.

Excise.

Local option to local bodies.

373 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur Haji Abd-ul-lah Haji Qasim Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it has been decided to give local option to local bodies in the matter of locating liquor and ganja shops; and if so, from what date?

A.—No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know when the hon. the Minister for Education expects to be in a position to come to a decision on this matter, approximately?"

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The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The Excise Advisory Committee meets on the 1st. It will have to meet again and the questions are being raised for its consideration. It is not possible for me to say just now when it will be finished."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Even approximately, Sir? "

(No answer.)

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister if this specific question of handing over local option to local bodies has been under the consideration of the Government ?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The general temperance reform is under the consideration of the Government."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Education that in view of the fact that the question regarding this temperance has been pressed upon his attention ever since the Council met in 1921, whether there is any satisfactory reason for the long delay in giving effect to it? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I have been pressing this question on the attention of the Government for the last ten or twelve years."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, my question has not been answered. Any question put by him within the last twelve years must have been raised by him as a public man. My question is this. In his capacity as Minister for Excise the necessity for this reform has been pressed upon his attention ever since 1921, the very first year when this Council met after the Reforms. Notwithstanding that, I ask him to say why there has been so much delay in giving effect to this proposal, or even in formulating a scheme to give effect to the question of local option? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I have summarized the work that has been done up till now in a note placed before this House. The note was prepared by me for the information of the Excise Advisory Committee and was placed last month on the Table of the House."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is it because the hon. the Minister is still considering the policy? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I have been examining all the policies that have hitherto been adopted in other provinces and also the better methods that we are to adopt in this province. I want to evolve a policy more suitable to the conditions of this province, whether it be local option, rationing, or excise system, whatever it is. We are examining that very carefully, and the policy will be intimated as soon as the examination is completed."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister for Education has at least consulted local bodies as to this question of local option? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" We have taken the advice of experts who have been working in the cause of temperance for many years, both official and non-official. We have also taken statements

from persons belonging to the missionary bodies as well as non-missionary bodies, who have been working among the masses and among the drinking classes. There is a large volume of evidence which, if any hon. Member wants to refer to, I shall be very glad to show him the files and replies received."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" Will it be placed on the table of the House? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" It consists of about 150 replies and it will take about 500 to 600 pages in print."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" At least a summary of it may be placed on the table."

(No answer.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Is the Government also considering the policy of total prohibition as one of the means of putting down drink altogether in this country? "

(No answer.)

Liquor manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co.

374 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that the water taken at Mangalore for mixing with country liquor manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co. is from a well which gets brackish in summer on account of the river close by;

(*b*) that it is carried first to a tank lined with iron or steel plates which not being galvanised get constantly rusty;

(*c*) that it is finally mixed with liquor without being filtered;

(*d*) that liquor is conveyed to Mangalore in steel casks which till recently gave a reddish or muddy colour to the liquor;

(*e*) that the Revenue Board and other Government authorities passed such discoloured liquor as fit for drinking;

(*f*) that much of the liquor sold in shops in South Kanara is adulterated with camphor boiled in hot water or liquid camphor mixed in water;

(2) (*a*) what caused the colouring of the liquor;

(*b*) whether any steps have been taken to prevent such taint or poisoning; and

(3) whether any Government officers in the Excise Department have heard any complaints about it; if so, whether local inquiries have been made and with what result?

A.—The Government have no information but will inquire.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I have been in favour of stopping the manufacture of liquor altogether. If you are going to give us liquor at all, let it be decent liquor." (Laughter.)

12 noon.

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" Is the hon. Member asking a question or giving a dissertation to the House, Sir? "